

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00762 071448Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 EB-08 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8466

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION USNATO

USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

COMICEDFOR KEFLAVIK IC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0762

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, IC

SUBJECT: REMARKS BY FOREIGN MINISTER ON KEFLAVIK AIR TERMINAL

REF: A) REYKJAVIK 0739 (NOTAL)(DTG 020854Z JUN 78)

B. STATE 137692 (NOTAL)(DTG 312021Z MAY 78)

1. IN BRIEF TELEVISION INTERVIEW JUNE 5, FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON
DISCUSSED AGREEMENT WITH USG ON CONSTRUCTION OF AIR TERMINAL
AT KEFLAVIK. WITHOUT SAYING SO SPECIFICALLY, AGUSTSSON
AGAIN LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT AFTER FOUR YEARS OF DIS-
CUSSIONS, AGREEMENT WAS RESULT OF HIS RECENT TALKS IN WASHINGTON
WITH SECRETARY VANCE. FONMIN SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE ESTIMATE
OF COST OF TERMINAL OR SHARES TO BE BORNE BY EITHER ICELAND
OR US THOUGH HE NOTED THAT AS RESULT OF DOWNWARD PROJECTION
OF ESTIMATED TRAFFIC, TERMINAL WILL BE SMALLER THAN ORIGINALLY
ENVISIONED. AGUSTSSON BELIEVED THAT FUNDING WOULD
BE PROVIDED IN 1980 BUDGET (PRESUMABLY OF USG) BUT

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DID NOT SPECULATE ON WHEN TERMINAL WOULD BE OPERA-
TIONAL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT RELATIONSHIP
OF AGREEMENT TO CONTINUED US PRESENCE, AGUSTSSON
SAID THAT AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US
FORCES TO REMAIN "FOR A TIME - IF THE NATION WANTED
IT."

2. COMMENT: AGREEMENT OF USG TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DUAL USE TERMINAL SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR GOVERNMENT PARTIES TO WITHSTAND PRESSURES BY THOSE OPPOSED TO CONTINUED PRESENCE OF ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE (IDF) AND SHOULD ALSO MUFFLE SOMEWHAT THOSE WITHIN IP WHO HAVE CALLED FOR US "COMPENSATION" IN RETURN FOR BASE FACILITIES. HOWEVER, TRADITIONAL AMBIGUITY OF PROGRESSIVES ON ISSUE OF BASE WILL REQUIRE AGUSTSSON WALK TIGHTROPE BETWEEN HIS PROGRESSIVE PARTY COLLEAGUES WHO OPPOSE IDF AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT. WE MAY CONTINUE FIND HIM PRIVATELY MORE COOPERATIVE WITH USG AS RESULT OF US DECISION ON TERMINAL, BUT WE CAN EXPECT HIM TO CONTINUE HIS PUBLIC BALANCING ACT ON BASE MATTERS FOR DURATION OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

BLAKE

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